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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 001544

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/A (REOTT) AND EUR/RPM (CARLAND)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/17/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [NATEU](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA: SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SUSTAINING
AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

REF: STATE 97991

Classified by: Economic-Political Counselor J. Dean Yap for
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Polchief discussed reftel points October 17 with Bernhard Zimburg, MFA director for East Asia and the Pacific. Zimburg averred that the MFA has long advocated increased Austrian support for the Afghanistan mission, but has met resistance from GOA elected officials. The Austrian public does not support participation in Afghanistan, and Austrian politicians tend to view the mission as a failure, he said. Zimburg noted that the GOA expected to learn October 17 whether Austria would be successful in its campaign to earn a rotating UNSC seat. If Austria were to join the UNSC, he said, it would give the MFA leverage in its efforts to encourage a greater Austrian role. He said MFA officials have over the last several days discussed Austria's future contributions to the mission, including reftel request for \$10 million in additional funding from 2010 to 2014. However, they have not yet made any decisions on the amount of funding or other support to be provided.
GIRARD-DICARLO